

**JOINT STAFF/TAC REPORT  
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 7  
Columbia River Compact  
October 6, 2000**

**PURPOSE:** Review salmon and steelhead stock status and consider non-Indian commercial fishing options.

**TAC:** The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed this Fact Sheet.

## Management Guidelines

### *Endangered Species Act*

<i>Listed Salmon and Steelhead of the Columbia Basin Present During August 1-December 31</i>		
Species - ESU	Designation	Effective Date
<b><u>Federally Listed Species</u></b>		
<b><u>Chinook</u></b>		
Snake River Fall	Threatened	May 22, 1992
Lower Columbia R. Spring/Fall	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<b><u>Chum</u></b>		
Columbia River	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<b><u>Steelhead</u></b>		
Snake River	Threatened	October 17, 1997
Upper Columbia River	Endangered	October 17, 1997
Middle Columbia River	Threatened	May 24, 1999
Lower Columbia River	Threatened	May 18, 1998
<b><u>Cutthroat Trout</u></b>		
Southwest Washington	Proposed Threatened	Decision due October 5, 2000
<b><u>Oregon State Listed Species</u></b>		
<b><u>Coho</u></b>		
Lower Columbia	Endangered	July 16, 1999

- The Biological Opinion concerning proposed non-Indian and treaty Indian fisheries during August 1-December 31, 2000 was signed by the National Marine Fisheries Service on July 31, 2000.
- Lower Columbia River chum impacts in non-Indian fisheries will be managed not to exceed 5% and are expected to be near 2%.

### *2000 Management Agreement*

- On July 13, 2000 the parties reached agreement on management of upper Columbia River fall chinook, steelhead, and coho for August 1 through December 31, 2000.
- The 2000 fall season fisheries in the Columbia River below the Snake River will be managed for a 30% reduction in the harvest rate of SRW fall chinook relative to the 1988-1993 base period, as represented by a 31.29% harvest rate index of the

aggregate URB run. The parties' intent is to allocate the 31.29% URB harvest rate 8.25% to non-Indian fisheries and 23.04% to treaty Indian fisheries.

- The treaty Indian fall fishery will be managed not to exceed a 15% harvest rate on wild Group B index steelhead. Non-Indian mainstem fall fisheries will be managed not to exceed a 2% harvest impact on wild Group B index steelhead.

### **State Guidelines**

- In May 2000 the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission decided that all fisheries will be managed such that aggregate impacts not exceed a 13.3% harvest rate on wild coho salmon destined for Oregon tributaries of the Columbia River.
- Harvest rates on LRW fall chinook should not exceed 10% in ocean and Columbia River fisheries in accordance with Washington state's wild salmonid policy.

### **Sturgeon Allocation**

- The Joint State Accord on 2000-2002 Sturgeon Management sets forth an annual harvestable number of 50,000 white sturgeon for lower Columbia River fisheries absent any significant update.
- Harvestable number is allocated 80% sport (40,000 fish) and 20% commercial (10,000 fish).

## **2000 Stock Status**

### **Summer Steelhead**

<b>Upriver Summer Steelhead Returns to Bonneville Dam</b>										
Year	Group A Index (<78 cm)					Group B Index (>=78 cm)				
	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total
1984	52,400	27	143,300	73	195,700	13,800	14	84,200	86	98,000
1985	51,900	18	229,600	82	281,500	13,000	32	27,900	68	40,900
1986	56,600	20	230,900	80	287,500	10,000	16	54,000	84	64,000
1987	106,700	45	131,600	55	238,300	14,000	31	31,000	69	45,000
1988	64,300	37	108,800	63	173,100	17,700	22	63,900	78	81,600
1989	57,500	30	135,600	70	193,100	12,400	16	65,200	84	77,600
1990	27,100	23	88,500	77	115,600	8,800	17	38,400	83	47,200
1991	60,300	26	173,800	74	234,100	6,200	22	22,100	78	28,300
1992	44,300	18	197,200	82	241,500	12,700	22	44,700	78	57,400
1993	28,600	21	108,100	79	136,700	4,400	12	31,800	88	36,200
1994	21,200	18	99,800	82	121,000	5,200	20	22,300	80	27,500
1995	26,000	14	154,000	86	180,000	1,800	14	11,400	86	13,200
1996	25,700	15	148,600	85	174,300	3,900	21	14,900	79	18,800
1997	30,900	15	177,400	85	208,300	3,900	11	32,700	89	36,000
1998	34,800	26	99,900	74	134,700	3,400	8	36,800	92	40,200
1999	56,600	32	119,800	68	176,400	3,700	17	18,400	83	22,100
<b>2000 Proj.</b>	<b>64,000</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>155,000</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>219,000</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>34,000</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>43,000</b>

- Preseason projections were for 210,000 Group A index (157,300 hatchery and 52,700 wild) and 33,800 Group B index (22,800 hatchery and 11,000 wild).

## Fall Chinook

<b>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</b>						
Stock	1999	2000	Inseason TAC Updates			
	Return	Preseason Forecast	Sept 14	Sept 21	Sept 27	Oct. 6
URB	166,100	208,200	163,700	151,000	149,700	150,800
SRW	2,739	1,764	1,764	1,764	1,764	1,764
MCB	49,600	58,400	45,900	45,900	45,500	40,600
BPH	50,200	26,900	20,100	19,400	19,100	18,700
LRH	40,000	26,400	26,400	26,400	26,400	31,400
LRW	3,300	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700
LRB	1,100	3,200	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,400
SAB	2,900	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100
Total	313,100	328,900	264,400	251,000	249,000	249,700

- The McNary Dam count exceeded the 45,000 escapement goal for the 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The season total count is projected to be 68,000 adults.
- Lower Granite Dam counts of 2,990 adults through October 5. Final count is projected to total 4,100.
- The preseason expectation was for a return of 564 wild fish past lower Granite Dam.

<b>Lower River Adult Fall Chinook Hatchery Returns</b>						
Hatchery/Stock	Escapement					Comments
	Returns	As of:	Preseason Projected	Inseason Update	Goal	
Elokomin LRH	1,480	10/4	2,500	1,550	720	Goal achieved.
Cowlitz LRH	1,025	9/29	2,900	2,900	3,830	
Toutle LRH	490	10/4	1,400	1,000	1,910	
Kalama LRH	2,250	9/29	2,000	3,300	1,670	Goal achieved.
Washougal LRH	2,000	10/4	1,800	4,000	2,760	
<i>Total WA LRH</i>	<i>7,245</i>		<i>10,600</i>	<i>12,750</i>	<i>10,890</i>	
Big Creek LRH	3,177	10/3	2,700	3,300	3,000	Goal achieved.
Bonneville LRH	364	10/3	100	--	--	Last year of LRH returns.
Willamette LRH	1,877	10/3	--	1,900	--	Releases discontinued in 1996.
<i>Total OR LRH</i>	<i>5,418</i>		<i>2,800</i>			
Clackamas SAB	64	9/25	990	--	--	Trap open.
Big Creek SAB	385	10/3	100	--	--	Releases discontinued in 1997.
<i>Total SAB</i>	<i>449</i>		<i>1,090</i>		<i>1,500</i>	
Bonneville BUB	3,082	10/3	7,000	4,700	4,500	Typically 63% complete.

- Returns to Spring Creek Hatchery are complete with 2,738 males, 2,781 females, and 5,820 jacks.
- The Spring Creek escapement goals of 7,000 adults and 20 million eggs were not achieved.

## **Coho Salmon**

- The preseason projection for Columbia River coho returns was 450,200 adults, including 253,600 early stock (highest since 1991) and 196,600 late stock (highest since 1991).

<b>Early Coho Returns</b>					
	Returns	As of:	Escapement		Comments
			Projected Total	Goal	
Elokomin	5,000	10/4		510	Goal achieved.
Kalama	2,000	10/4		700	Goal achieved.
Toutle	9,800	10/4		1,480	Goal achieved.
Lewis	10,700	10/4		1,526	Goal achieved.
Total Washington	27,500			4,216	
Klaskanine	0	10/3	--	--	
Big Creek	3,428	10/3	--	700	Goal achieved.
Eagle Creek	4,500	10/3	--	3,300	Goal achieved.
Sandy	4,460	10/3	--	1,300	Goal achieved.
Bonneville	15,901	10/3	20,300	6,000	Goal achieved.
Total Oregon	28,289				
Bonneville Dam	58,922				

- Based on escapement to date and projected fishery catches, the 2000 early stock river mouth return is tracking slightly better than the pre-season forecast.
- Clackamas River early stock wild coho passage is tracking well ahead of recent years with 1,509 adults passing North Fork Dam through October 3. Early stock passage is typically 70% complete by this time.
- Sandy River wild coho returns to date are also tracking ahead of recent years with 246 adults passing Marmot Dam through October 3. Passage typically peaks in October.
- Based on fisheries that have occurred to date and proposed fisheries, impacts on wild coho are projected to be 13.1% for early stock and 10.0% for late stock.

## **Sport Fishery Updates**

### **Buoy 10 Fishery**

- The Buoy 10 sport fishery opened August 1 for chinook salmon, adipose fin marked coho, and adipose fin marked steelhead, with a daily catch limit of two fish of which only one may be a chinook.
- A 9,000 chinook mortality quota is in place and the fishery was closed to chinook retention during August 28-31 to ensure that this quota was not exceeded.

- Mainstem Columbia (from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco) opened for chinook and adipose fin clipped coho on August 1.

<b>Sport Fishery Update (Season Total Projections)</b>										
	<b>Chinook</b>							<b>Coho</b>	<b>Steelhead</b>	
	URB	BPH	MCB	LRH	LRW	SAB	Total		Mkd.	Unm.
Buoy 10	1,100	270	350	2,580	0	230	6,200	24,000	0	<100
LCR. Mainstem	4,600	0	1,760	1,240	0	10	8,000	1,400	4,900	1,900
Zone 6	610	0	40	0	0	0	650	NA	NA	1

- During the month of August an estimated 4,100 marked steelhead were kept and 1,700 unmarked steelhead were released in the fishery below Bonneville Dam. Marked steelhead catch was comprised of 94% Group A index fish and 6% Groups B index fish.
- Steelhead catches below Bonneville Dam during September were estimated to include 835 marked steelhead kept and 213 unmarked steelhead released. Marked steelhead catch was comprised of 45% Group A index fish and 55% Group B index fish.

<b>Sturgeon Catch and Effort through August in the Lower Columbia River Sport Fishery, 1995-2000</b>				
Year	Angler Trips	Legals Kept	CPUE Kept/Trip	Comments
2000	161,400	32,300	0.20	Estuary closed to retention during April.
1999	156,900	33,200	0.21	1 fish bag 42"-60"
1998	173,000	35,700	0.21	1 fish bag 42-66"
1997	168,200	33,600	0.20	1 fish bag 42-66"
1996	154,100	37,200	0.24	1 fish bag after 4/1, 42"-66".
1995	188,300	45,100	0.24	2 fish bag, closed to retention 9/1-12/31

- Effort, catch, and CPUE in the lower Columbia sturgeon sport fishery through August are similar to recent years. The estimated catch for August of 4,000 white sturgeon is relatively low compared to recent years.
- The 2000 annual sport catch of white sturgeon below Bonneville Dam is projected to total about 39,000.

## Commercial Fishery Updates

### Lower River Fisheries

<b>Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Fishery Update</b>				
Stock	Aug 4-5	Aug 2S	Sep 18-28	Oct. 5 Proj.
UJB	369	2,603	900	80
BPH	123	484	0	0
MCB	353	2,159	1,070	70
LRH	550	298	100	0
LRW	0	0	200	0
LRB	0	216	190	20
SAB	31	0	20	0
<i>Total Chinook</i>	<i>1,697</i>	<i>5,832</i>	<i>2,480</i>	<i>170</i>
Coho	1	161	33,777	6,655
Chum	0	0	0	5
W. Sturgeon	2,357	301	495	56
G. Sturgeon	472	5	316	13

- Catch during the September 25-28 fishing period included 23,900 coho and 790 chinook.
- An estimated 33,600 coho were landed in September fisheries which is similar to the preseason expectation of 35,000.
- CPUE in Zones 1 and 2 has been used in the past as an indicator of late stock coho abundance. CPUE typically peaks during the second and third weeks of October.

<b>2000 Commercial White Sturgeon Catch Update</b>	
Fishery	Catch
Mainstem Winter Gillnet	2,282
Select Area winter/Spring/Summer Gillnet	500
August 3-4 Gillnet	2,357
Area 2S Gillnet (Aug 21-23)	301
Zones 4-5 Gillnet (Sept 19-20)	230
Select Area Fall Gillnet	148
Mainstem Late Fall Gillnet	323
Total Catch to Date	6,141

- White sturgeon catches through October 5 are estimated to be 6,100 fish which leaves 3,900 fish remaining on the 10,000 fish guideline.

### Select Area Fisheries

- The Young's Bay Select Area fishery is open 7 days/week from September 5 through October 31 with catch expectations of 53,000 coho and 1,000 chinook.
- The Tongue Point/South Channel and Deep River fisheries opened on September 5 and the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Steamboat Slough fisheries opened September 7. All fisheries are scheduled to continue through the end of October except for Steamboat Slough, which ends on October 28.
- Catch expectations for the season are 10,000 coho in Deep River and 5,000 coho in Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Steamboat Slough.

<b>Non-Indian Select Area Commercial Fishery Update</b>					
	Y.B.	T.P.	B.S.	D.R.	S.S.
Chinook	1,730	256	125	94	68
Coho	33,123	10,290	2,954	8,268	384
Chum	1	0	0	0	0
W. Sturgeon	86	56	6	0	0
G. Sturgeon	0	0	0	0	0

- Youngs Bay season total catches are projected to be 37,200 coho and 1,830 chinook.
- Season total coho catch projections are less than preseason expectations for Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Steamboat Slough, more than the preseason expectation for Tongue Point, and similar to the preseason expectation for Deep River.

### Test Fisheries

- The use of monofilament gear was allowed during the October 5 fishing period to gain information concerning coho and chinook catch rates for single strand monofilament gear and conventional multi-strand gill nets.
- ODFW and WDFW performed onboard monitoring to collect data concerning species specific catch rates by gear types.

<b>Onboard Monitoring Results</b>										
	Monofilament Gear					Conventional Gear				
	Drifts	Chin	Chin/Drift	Coho	Coho/Drift	Drifts	Chin	Chin/Drift	Coho	Coho/Drift
Upper Zone 1	2	0	0	8	4	3	2	1	17	6
Lower Zone 2	2	0	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	0
Upper Zone 2	0	--	--	--	--	3	7	2.3	139	46
Total	4	0	0	12	3	7	9	1	156	22

### Treaty Indian Fishery

- The tribal fishery was estimated to have a 24.05% harvest rate on URB's and 12.66% harvest rate impact on wild Group B index steelhead for the season.
- Effective October 2 the treaty Indians prohibited retention of chinook in subsistence fisheries.

# Fishery Proposals

## Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries

<b><i>Proposed Coho/Sturgeon Season</i></b>	
Season:	7 AM to 7 PM Monday October 9 (12 hours)
Area:	Zone 1-5, except those areas from Longview Bridge upstream to a line projected from Warrior Rock to Red Buoy No 4 thence to a fishing boundary marker on Bachelor Island.
Sanctuaries:	Grays Bay Elokomin-A, Abernathy Creek, Washougal River, and Sandy River sanctuaries are in place.
Gear:	Unslackened floater gill nets with 6" maximum mesh size or 9" minimum and 9-3/4" maximum mesh size gillnets will be allowed.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon.
Expected Catch:	5,000 coho <100 chinook 1,000-2,000 white sturgeon

<b><i>Proposed Coho Target Season</i></b>	
Season:	Noon Tuesday October 10 to noon Friday October 13
Area:	Zone 1-5, except those areas from Longview Bridge upstream to a line projected from Warrior Rock to Red Buoy No. 4 thence to a fishing boundary marker on Bachelor Island.
Sanctuaries:	Grays Bay Elokomin-A, Abernathy Creek, Washougal River, and Sandy River sanctuaries are in place.
Gear:	Unslackened floater gill nets with 6" maximum mesh size restriction.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon.
Expected Catch:	15,000-25,000 coho 300-500 chinook <100 white sturgeon

## ***Rationale:***

- √ Gear and area restrictions will minimize fall chinook impacts.
- √ Chinook salmon impacts remain within limits set forth in the 2000 Management Agreement.
- √ Wild coho impacts will remain within limits set forth by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, in conjunction with the Oregon state ESA listing.
- √ Coho/sturgeon season will allow for orderly harvest of remaining commercial sturgeon allocation by the end of October.
- √ Coho target season will allow for harvest of surplus hatchery coho while minimizing impacts on listed chinook salmon.



Summary of Fishery Impacts								
Fishery	Chinook Catch	URB Impacts		Total Steelhead	Wild Steelhead Impacts			
		No.	%		Group A Index		Group B Index	
					No.	%	No.	%
Treaty Indian Fisheries								
August C&S	225	165	0.1	2,660	400	0.6	60	0.7
Commercial	51,885	36,095	24.0	12,710	1,980	3.1	930	10.3
Late Fall C&S (Proj.)				3,000	630	0.6	210	2.3
Treaty Indian Total	52,110	36,260	24.1	18,370	3,010	4.7	1,200	13.3
Non-Indian Fisheries								
August Sturgeon Commercial	1,700	370		20	4		1	
August 2S Commercial	5,830	2,600		114	0		24	
September 18-28	2,700	900		23	2		2	
Select Area Commercial (Proj. Total)	1,780	40		4	1		0	
Buoy 10 Sport (Proj. Total)	6,200	1,100		54	0		2	
LCR Sport (Proj. Total)	8,000	4,600		6,140	202		28	
Zone 6 Sport (Proj. Total)	670	610		17,900	590		80	
October 5 (Proj.)	170	80		8	1		2	
Non-Indian Total to Date	25,350	10,300	6.83	24,278	801		141	
Proposed Fisheries	500	240	0.16	8	1		2	
Projected Non-Indian Total	25,850	10,540	7.00	24,286	802	1.25	141	1.55
Grand Total	79,455	46,610	31.14	42,648	3,541	5.5	1,341	14.9

## Next Compact Hearing

- The Joint Staff recommends that the next Compact be scheduled for October 13, 2000 at 1:00 PM at ODFW Headquarters Commission room in Portland to update salmon and steelhead stock status and commercial fishing options.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
October 6, 2000